

**Introduced by Senator Florez**February 20, 2003

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An act relating to water transfer.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 553, as introduced, Florez. Water transfer.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to establish an ongoing program to facilitate the voluntary exchange or transfer of water and implement the various state laws that pertain to water transfers.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to develop policies that require the examination of the impact of water transfers on the agricultural economy and social fabric of rural areas and that provide a manner of mitigating the impact of water transfers on the local economy, particularly on agricultural workers.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the  
2 following:  
3 (1) Water transferred from agricultural to urban uses in  
4 exchange for payments to the agricultural holders of that water  
5 may have economic and social impacts on the agricultural areas  
6 from which the water is transferred, particularly for agricultural  
7 workers formerly employed in agriculture and for those businesses  
8 and employees that formerly were sustained and supported by the  
9 local agricultural economy.



1 (2) The economic and social impact of these water transfers on  
2 the local agricultural economy and on agricultural workers has not  
3 been fully examined or mitigated as these water transfers have  
4 occurred.

5 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to develop  
6 policies that require the examination of the impact of water  
7 transfers on the agricultural economy and the social fabric of rural  
8 areas and that provide a manner of mitigating the impact of water  
9 transfers to the extent that those transfers cause dislocation to the  
10 local economy, particularly agricultural workers.

